

# M&MIP Official Task Force

June 29<sup>th</sup> Planning Session

Overview of Progress

&

Next Steps

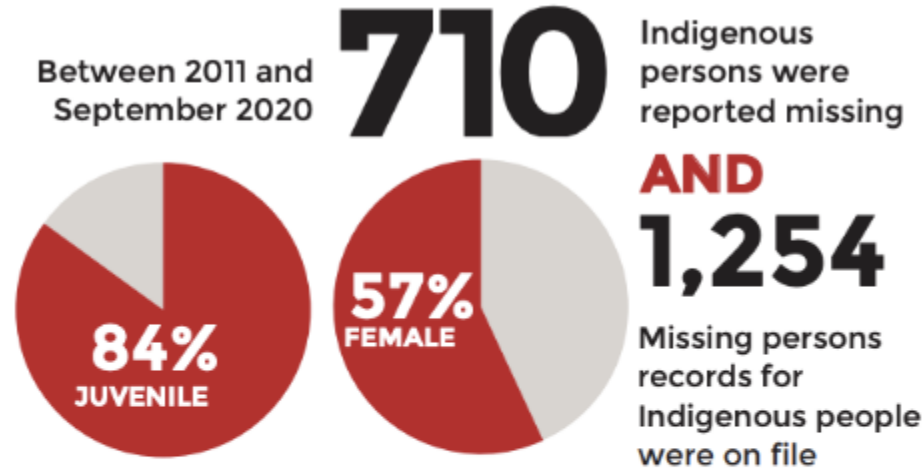
# Gabby Petito & WY's Statewide Report

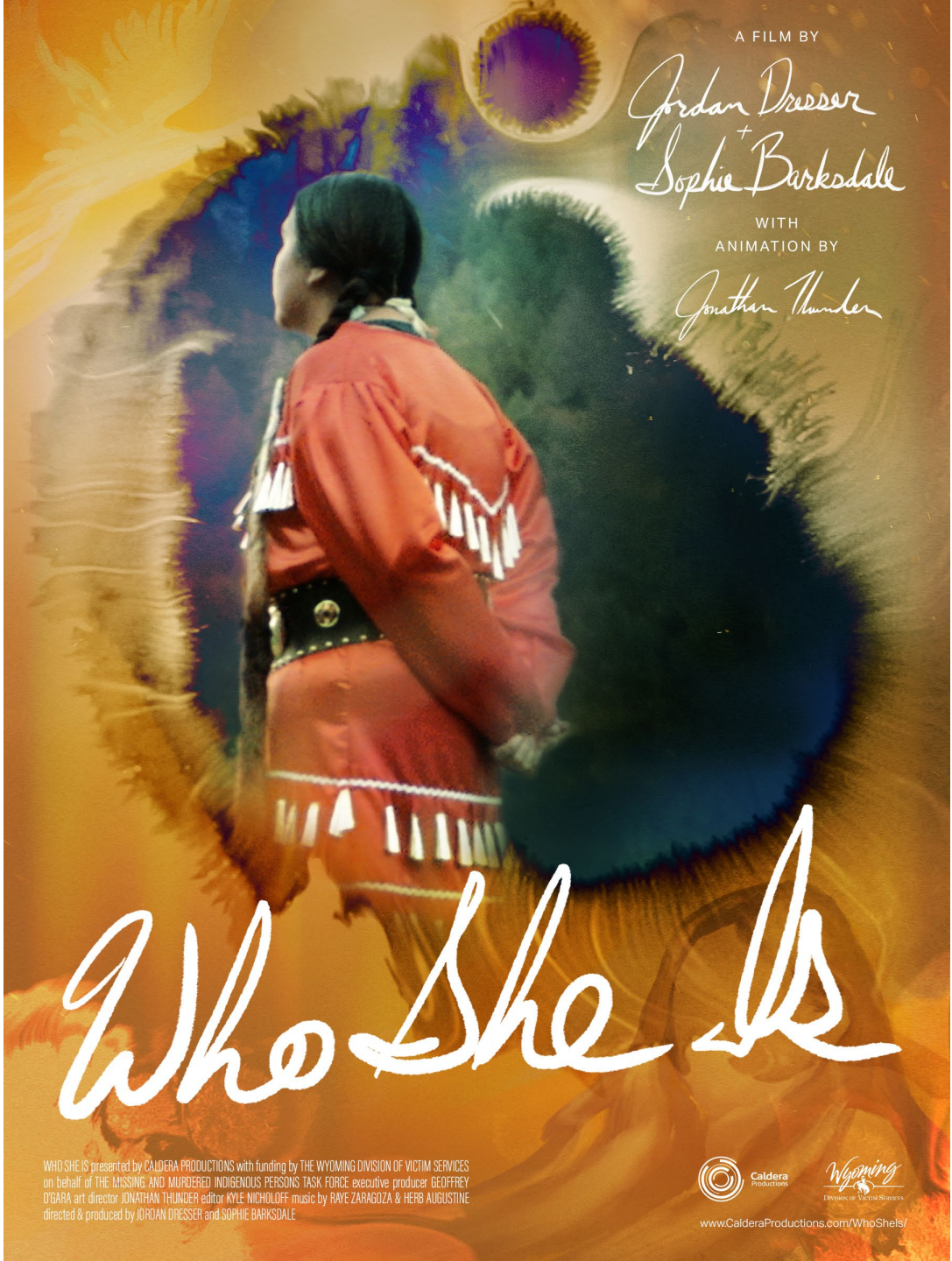
## **All-out search, media attention for Gabby Petito reveals glaring disparity for Wyoming's Indigenous people**

A report says 710 Indigenous people were reported missing in the state over the past decade.



# Dr. Emily Grant- Sr. Researcher from WYSAC





A FILM BY

*Jordan Dresser  
+  
Sophie Barksdale*

WITH  
ANIMATION BY

*Jonathan Thunder*

# Who She Is

WHO SHE IS presented by CALDERA PRODUCTIONS with funding by THE WYOMING DIVISION OF VICTIM SERVICES on behalf of THE MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS TASK FORCE executive producer GEOFFREY D'GARA art director JONATHAN THUNDER editor KYLE NICHOLOFF music by RAYE ZARAGOZA & HERB AUGUSTINE directed & produced by JORDAN DRESSER and SOPHIE BARKSDALE



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# WYSAC- Wyoming Law Enforcement Survey



June 27, 2022

## **Wyoming Law Enforcement Survey**

*Missing persons policies, practices, and  
procedures*

Emily Grant, PhD, Senior Research Scientist  
Janelle R. Simpson, MA, Senior Research Scientist  
Laurel A. Wimbish, MA, Senior Research Scientist



# BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

# FACT SHEET

## NATIONAL ASHANTI ALERT NETWORK

### Background

The Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 (Pub L. 115-401) was signed into law on December 31, 2018. It authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to establish a national communications network to enable and help facilitate regional and local search efforts for missing individuals who fall outside the scope of America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alerts and Silver Alerts.

The legislation aims to encourage, enhance, and integrate the development of Ashanti Alert Plans and enhance communications among participating states, territories, and tribes in locating missing adults. Participation in this effort is voluntary. The act aims to ensure that states, territories, and tribes that are voluntarily implementing an Ashanti Alert Plan have access to guidance and resources.

### Ashanti Alerts

Ashanti Alerts, once implemented, can provide for rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, media, and the public about adults who have been reported missing, along with suspect information in cases of suspected abduction. Ashanti Alerts could be transmitted via wireless devices and through the Emergency Alert System (EAS).



### Who Was Ashanti Billie?

Ashanti Billie was a 19-year-old woman who disappeared on September 18, 2017, in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Two weeks later, authorities discovered her body in Charlotte, North Carolina — 350 miles away.

The amount of time and distance traveled between Ashanti's abduction and the discovery of her body, as well as falling outside the scope of other alert programs, raised questions regarding the lack of a state, regional, or nationwide missing persons alert system that focused on individuals over the age of 17. Named in her honor, the Ashanti Alert Act aims to solve this problem.

# Ashanti Alert Activation Criteria

The Ashanti Alert Act criteria focus on three key areas:

- Individuals over the age of 17
- Missing adults with special needs or circumstances
- Missing adults who are endangered or have been involuntarily abducted or kidnapped

## For More Information

Visit the National Ashanti Alert Network section of the BJA website at <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/national-ashanti-alert-network/overview> or email BJA at <https://bja.ojp.gov/askbja>.

For technical assistance, contact: [info@ashanti.riss.net](mailto:info@ashanti.riss.net).

## Select Committee on Tribal Relations

8/29/2022

8:30 AM

Central Wyoming College, Intertribal Center, Wind River Room

2660 Peck Ave.

Riverton, Wyoming

Livestream available on the Legislature's website at [www.wyoleg.gov](http://www.wyoleg.gov)

## Select Committee on Tribal Relations

10/18/2022

8:30 AM

University of Wyoming, Coe Library, Room 5

Laramie, Wyoming

Livestream available on the Legislature's website at [www.wyoleg.gov](http://www.wyoleg.gov)



# Next Steps

- Official Task Force -Public Meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>
- Ongoing Research- Commitment of funding from DVS
- Proposed Legislation- Ashanti Alert
- Frequency of Task Force Meetings